

c.) Remarks

The claims are 15-25. Former Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. Claims 15-20 generally correspond to original Claims 1-6. Original Claims 7, 11 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 21-23 generally correspond to former Claims 8-10, Claim 24 generally corresponds to former Claim 12 and Claim 25 generally corresponds to former Claim 14. Consideration of the Claims is respectfully requested.

Support for Claims 15, 16, 21 and 22 is found, *inter alia* on page 4, lines 7-10. Support for Claim 17 is found at page 11, lines 19-21.

The objection to former Claim 10, now new Claim 23, has been resolved by reciting a surface active agent.

Former Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were deemed anticipated by Makino EP '777. Former Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13 were rejected as anticipated by Mizumoto EP '382. Former Claims 1-14 were rejected as obvious over Mizumoto EP '382 in view of Sangekar '662. The grounds of rejection as found on pages 2-6 of the outstanding Office Action are respectfully traversed.

The present claimed invention as particularly set forth in independent Claims 15 and 21 includes (i) a saccharide with high wettability against water included in a powdered mixture being defined by its kinetic viscosity, (ii) granulated materials compressed without their surfaces being moistened, and (iii) a binder containing the saccharide with high wettability against water. The tablet is an intrabuccally rapidly disintegrated tablet.

EP '777 neither teaches nor suggests the key features of the claimed invention. EP '777 merely discloses an intrabuccally rapidly disintegrated tablet. Although the reference discloses a saccharide, such as lactose, maltitol, sorbitol and oligosaccharide and the like, it fails to teach or suggest granulated materials being

compressed without their surfaces being moistened or a binder containing therein the saccharide with high wettability against water.

For the present claimed tablet the disintegration speed in the buccal cavity is very fast and the handling for tableting is excellent in addition to exhibiting practical hardness. Furthermore, the invention recited in Claims 16 and 22 exhibits excellent handling for tableting in addition to the above features. EP '777 fails as an anticipation since it does not teach the above-noted features.

Mizumoto '382 fails to teach or suggest the claimed features of compressing the granulated materials without surfaces being moistened, a binder containing a saccharide with high wettability against water or a saccharide with high wettability defined, in part, by kinetic viscosity. Therefore, it cannot act as an anticipation.

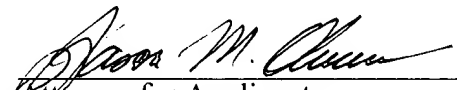
The defects of Mizumoto are not remedied by Sangekar '662. Sangekar fails to teach or suggest a tablet containing therein saccharide with high wettability against water defined by the claims, granulated materials being compressed without their surfaces being moistened, on a binder being containing the saccharide with high wettability against water.

Dependent Claims 17, 24 and 25 refer to specific composition ratios which are not disclosed in any of the cited prior art.

Wherefore it is requested that the claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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